

F U N upon F U N: O R, T H E *Stark-Naked West Country W E D D I N G.*



COME all you young maids so charming and fair,
A wonderful thing I have got to declare;
The story will make your colour to rise,
But with patience draw near, be not in a surprise.

'Tis of a bold robbery lately was done,
The like sure in England was scarce ever known:
And since that no murder the villains they do,
The joke it is merry I tell unto you.

At Esham a beautiful maiden did dwell,
A farm-r's fair daughter, as many do tell,
Her beauty did bring many suitors, we hear,
At length a young Grazier that lived near,
Did gain her consent to be his bride,
And early in the morning they were to be ty'd.
Half the maids in the village to the wedding came,
Such a country wedding scarce ever was seen.

White gloves and fine favours, both gallant and gay,
And each had his five lads wherewith to play,
The bridegroom and beautiful bride to adorn,
And early they were to set out in the morn.

Two miles from the church the house it were,
The parson and clerk was to meet the guests there:
But now all the cream of the jest you shall hear,
I'd have you with patience now to draw near.
Six highwaymen bold that lurk'd in the town,
By chance, sir, this wedding unto them was blown,
And they all in ambush themselves did bestow,
The bride folks to meet, as to church they did go.

The bride guests did early set out in the morn,
Before that bright Phebus the sky did adorn:
And as hand in hand they trip'd o'er the plain,
These impudent villains then up to them came.

Then first to the bridegroom they went and did say,
Sir, you must deliver without more delay.
Oh! gentlemen, then the young Grazier reply'd,
I have nothing I value but this my fair bride.
Then each drew a pistol, and solemnly swore,
The first that did stir they would lay in their gore:
So if you've no money, come strip to the skin:
Then the bride and the bridegroom first did begin.

They stript them as naked as e'er they was born,
Tho' keen blew the air, and sharp was the morn.
The beautiful bride did tremble full fore,
And clapp'd one hand behind, the other before.
The bridegroom so earnestly did at her stare,
And she did all she could to cover her ware.
Within half an hour they strip'd them all round,
And they pack'd up the cloaths, and rid off the ground.

Oh! what must we do, the young women cry'd?
Oh! where must we run says the beautiful bride?
At length altogether they crept in a heap,
And the young men among the fair maids did creep.

Oh! I pray now keep from us, said pretty Nan,
For I am sore frighted at a naked man.
If the men did but touch them, they'd caper and leap,
And some thro' their fingers did modestly peep.

There was white skin; and brown skin; and some
coal black,

The young men's poor creatures went flipity flap,
A sight something strange to the maids did appear,
And as in the fields they stood trembling there,

Says beautiful Betty that works at the chun.
I'm sure a good thought in my head is come:
We are nearer to church than we are to our home,
And if you'll be rul'd, we'll all thither run.

And if that the young men will civil be,
To what I propose now for to agree,
To shut but their eyes, we'll lead them along,
And when that into the church we do come,

We'll hide us in pews till we send to the town,
To our relief they quickly will come:

We give our consent, the young men replies,
To please the young women they all shut their eyes.

They were all well pleas'd as pleas'd could be,
You may well be sure the young men could not see:
So they hand in hand to the church did repair,
The sexton stood at the church-door waiting there.

And as at a distance did them espy,
He earnestly look'd till the church they drew nigh:
He calls to the clerk, saying, Sir, do but come,
And see what they are coming along.
The sexton said, They are soldiers in buff, I dare swear,
For before them you may see their black bandileers:
But when the young men to the church drew nigh,
They took to their heels, and like lightening did fly.

The sexton and clerk away they did run,
To meet with the parson, for he was not come:
They to'd him the sight that morning they had seen,
And how in the church they did all enter in.

Sure you have little faith, the parson he cry'd,
I will go and see them whatever betide:
And when he came there the poor creatures did weep,
And told how by highwaymen they had been stript.

The parson he lent them his surplice and gown,
Until that assistance did come from the town,
And quickly some cloathing were brought to them,
And the couple were married the next morning.

This caused great laughter on the wedding day,
They caper'd, and merily danced the hay:
The young men saw nothing because they were blind,
And if that they did, they left it behind.

Upon Halden Downs strew'd up and down,
The cloaths by the highwaymen were about thrown;
Which plainly shew'd they did it for fun,
That the world might talk of what they had done.

Printed and Sold in Bow - Church Yard, London.